

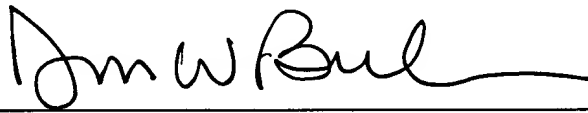
## Remarks

The allowance of claims 15, 16, 18-20 and 24 is noted with appreciation as is the indicated allowability of claims 10 and 17 if presented in independent form. By way of the foregoing amendments, claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10 and claim 3 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 17, whereby independent claims 3 and 9 are in effect rewrites of claims 17 and 10, respectively.

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

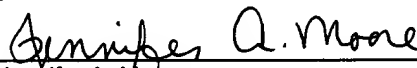
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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 6-28-04

  
Jennifer A. Moore

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